



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 5, No. 3

343 King's Highway East

November, 1962

STORY OF FIRST PERMANENT SETTLERS ON THE DELAWARE TO BE TOLD BY DESCENDENT OF OLD N. J. FAMILY

An interesting introduction to the New Jersey Tercentenary to be held in 1964 is the talk scheduled for the meeting of the Society on Tuesday evening, November 27.

Mr. W. W. Summerill, a descendent of the Summerill family which has lived in Salem County since 1725, brings a wealth of little-known facts to his subject, "The First Permanent Settlers on the Delaware."

Mr. Summerill's heritage has fostered great interest in the history of the state. He has assembled a sizeable library on the history of West Jersey and has long been a member of the historical societies of Salem County, Camden County and New Jersey State.

Of unusual interest to Society members, especially those of old New Jersey families, will be Mr. Summerill's chart showing the names of descendants of the first Swedish settlers which are still extant throughout the Delaware Valley region. The chart traces these family names back to their original spelling and significance.

Although the Swedish settlers were few their descendants were many and it is likely that every member will find

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, November 27

TIME: 8 P. M.

**PLACE: Friends Meeting House
Annex, Lake Street**

among them many names of their own family and friends.

Another fascinating episode in the drama of the Delaware to be recounted by Mr. Summerill is the story of how William Penn became interested in New Jersey in the first place. Like the man who came to dinner, Penn was called in to settle a dispute involving John Fenwick, one of the early English settlers who sought to turn the Swedes out of their lands, and stayed to buy up all the land not owned by Fenwick. Thus he became one of the "proprietors" of West Jersey.

Mr. Summerill is a resident of Penns Grove, a Salem County Engineer and Vice-Chairman of the South Jersey Port Commission.

HADDONFIELD IN 1861 DESCRIBED IN N. J. "HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS"

It is astonishing to think that in one hundred years Haddonfield has grown from a "village principally built on a single street, ornamented by shade-trees," to a busy town of more than 13,000 people with hardly a piece of land left for development.

An interesting account of how Haddonfield looked in the mid-19th century is given in "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey" by John W. Barber, author of Connecticut and Massachusetts Historical Collections and other works, and Henry Howe, author of "The Memoirs of Eminent American Mechanics." The Collections were published by Benjamin Olds in Newark in 1861 and relates:

"Haddonfield is situated on the south side of Cooper's creek, 5 m. SE. of Camden. The village is principally built on a single street, ornamented by shade-trees. It consists of about 150 dwellings, 4 houses for public worship, 1 for Friends, 1 Baptist, 1 Methodist, and 1 Episcopal, 5 mercantile stores, 2 grist-m, 2 tanneries, and a large woollen factory. The Friends meeting-house is situated in the central part of the village.

The Baptist church was erected in 1818, the Methodist in 1835; both these houses are substantial brick edifices. The Episcopal church now (1842) erecting, is of wood. The first house of worship erected in this township was for Friends. It was built about the year 1690, on what is now called Collins road, about 2½ miles SW. of Haddonfield. This house was removed about 30 years since, and the one near Camden line erected.

"During the war of the revolution, Haddonfield had become a place of some note, and the inhabitants were mostly, if not altogether, sound whigs; and being of the Quaker persuasion, they were not found fighting under the banners of

carnal warfare. A guardhouse was kept by the Americans, on the premises of Wm. Griscomb; and the British army marching through, set fire to the building, and destroyed the house of Mr. Griscomb and the adjoining one belonging to Thomas Redman, they being both Friends or Quakers. A great deal of their furniture was destroyed, as well as their houses, but no lives lost.

"In front of Capt. James B. Cooper's dwelling is a button-wood tree,* which was standing at the time these buildings were destroyed. The body of it was burnt out, and a large cavity left, which was used after the war by children for a playhouse. The bark has not grown around it, and the tree is in a flourishing condition."

**This same button-wood tree still stands on King's Highway East on the north side a few doors from Haddon Avenue. A legend of its history appears on a marker affixed to the tree.*

Coming, next issue . . . a story on "Elizabeth Haddon's First Home," by Camden County historian Elmer Garfield Van Name. This story will appear in the Society's Special Bulletin on the 250th anniversary of the founding of Haddonfield, to be celebrated in 1963.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF OLD HOUSES ENJOYED BY OVER 400 VISITORS

Visitors from many parts of the state and Delaware Valley as well as local residents were charmed by old Haddonfield in candlelight when nine of the oldest homes in the oldest section of the town (all built in the early 1800's) were opened for display in October.

The tour, sponsored and arranged by the Society under the chairmanship of Mrs. Edith Atkinson, exceeded in

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HIP ROOF HOUSE PURCHASED; MORE FUNDS NEEDED TO PAY LOAN

Thanks to the contributions of members and non-members, the Society was able to purchase Haddonfield's oldest house and thus preserve its historic state for posterity.

The settlement of the property was made on October 5. Contributions amounted to \$2722.90 and the Society was able to secure a loan of \$2000. Purchase price and settlement costs of \$4,213.02 were paid to the West Jersey Title and Guaranty Co..

The members of the Hip Roof House Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dalton, Sr. wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the fund. Approximately two hundred and fifty persons and organizations contributed the amount collected. Many were not members of the Society.

It is hoped that many more members and friends will send in their contribution so that the Society will be able to meet the large loan that was necessary to settle the property. We need only 200 more members to contribute \$10 each to pay this obligation. Any amount will be helpful in our all-out efforts this Fall to own the property clear.

Please send your check payable to Haddonfield Historical Society and marked "Hip Roof House" to Mrs. Robert J. Dalton, Sr., 121 Peyton Avenue, Haddonfield.

The Membership Committee Chairman, Mrs. William E. Moody, extends an invitation to the members to bring a guest or guests (hopefully prospective members) to our Annual Meeting November 27th, 8 P. M. at the Friends Meeting Annex.

Light refreshments will be served following the meeting by Mrs. Moody and her committee.

The President's Corner

THE SAMUEL NICHOLSON RHOADS COLLECTION

During the past summer a complete listing was made of the books, manuscripts, deeds, files, etc. given the Society some years ago by Mr. Rhoads. This was done by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Danenhower assisted by your President, Martha Goettelmann. Estimates are being received on fireproof bookcases to house this collection as directed in Mr. Rhoads will, and it is hoped that before too long this valuable collection will be housed in our library.

LIBRARY PROJECT

During the summer the portable Corona typewriter now being used in the Library was purchased with the books of green stamps donated by our members. We wish to thank all those who gave so generously to make this possible. The typewriter fills a real need in the Librarian's work.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Society is grateful for the many gifts of pamphlets, old books, deeds, newspapers, a Windsor Rocking chair, a 45 star flag, old beaded bags and Currier and Ives prints, and a framed water color of the Indian King Tavern made in 1908.

DOLL COLLECTION

A rare collection of over 400 dolls will be given to the Society shortly. These are all catalogued and are given to us by Mrs. Arthur Christopher of Audubon. We need sectional bookcases to house this collection and donations from members of any cases of this type for housing their display will be appreciated.

Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

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A REMINDER TO MAIL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please mail your membership dues without delay. The maintenance of our beautiful headquarters, Greenfield Hall; our educational program which is proving of immense value to our school children; and new acquisitions which enrich the Society need your financial support. Our speakers at quarterly meetings have been of exceptionally high caliber and a number of them are paid. Your dues enable us to make the Society more interesting and valuable to every member and to this historic community. Thank you!

NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At our next meeting, November 27, members will vote for new officers for the 1962-63 term. The Nominating Committee Chairman Richard H. Hammond, Joseph Tatem, and Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Jr.

Jesse G. Haydock, Jr. submits the following list of members selected for the various offices to be filled:

President Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann
1st Vice President Mr. Edwin J. Pearson
3rd Vice President Mr. Louis H. Goettelmann
(to replace Mr. R. H. Hammond, resigned)
Treasurer..... Mr. D. Irving Taylor
Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Donald S. C. Willis

Trustees to serve on the Board
(3 yr. term expiring in 1965)

Mrs. Robert J. Dalton

Mr. Harry Bauer

Mr. Charles H. Evans

Mr. Joseph M. Tatem

Mr. Robert J. Moore

Mr. Richard H. Hammond

(to fill unexpired term of
Louis H. Goettelmann '63)

Mrs. Harry A. Atkinson

(to fill unexpired term of
Edwin J. Pearson '63)

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attendance and receipts the expectations of the committee members who had worked for many weeks to make the event a historical and financial success.

The net gain to the Society in terms of money was \$575.00 but the greater gain of bringing the historic values of Haddonfield to the attention of the community is inestimable. The president, Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann, wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the members who contributed their time and effort for this tour and also all those who supported it.

With a "hit" behind them, the Society is encouraged to plan other events of a similar nature.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor

Historical Society Bulletin

Send all editorial contributions to:

120 Warwick Road

Haddonfield, N. J.